BIOGRAPHY FROM COLUMBIA RECORDS

TAJ MAHAL

Armed with the conviction that traditional country blues has a significant place in our automated, urbanized society, and a talent to communicate that belief to even the most sophisticated of audiences, Taj Mahal is the herald of an unoffical but rapidly spreading musical movement, a movement whose sole intention is to reach as many people as possible with the sound of authentic country blues. Reminiscent of the old-time country-blues purists, Taj refuses to gloss over or stylize the vital lyrical content which characterizes authentic country-blues music. Instead, his voice is sometimes rough, sometimes gentle, often a laugh, more often a wail.

A city boy who can understand and successfully interpret country blues, Taj communicates his understanding and love for this music to other urbanites, winning their praise and the praise of country folk as well. Evidence of his infectious talent is the laurels he's won for performances at the Trip, Hullabaloo, Ash Grove, It's Boss, Balladeer, Ciro's, the Other Place and Whiskey a Go Go in California; Gerde's Folk City and the Take 3 in New York; and the Club 47 and Unicorn in Boston. Taj was heard at the Avalon Ballroom in San Francisco and at the Hollywood Palladium and has given "special request" concerts for the cast of "Peyton Place" and for British star Anthony Newley.

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Taj was born in New York City on May 17, 1942, and was raised in Springfield, Massachusetts. The son of a noted jazz arranger and pianist, Taj studied at the University of Massachusetts, where he received his B.A. in veterinary science. His only formal musical education consisted of "one hard week of piano lessons. The teacher gave up, saying 'He'll never be a musician.'" On his own Taj mastered not only the piano, but the guitar, harmonica, electric bass, banjo, tambourine, vibes, mandolin and dulcimer as well. Soon he was performing as a solo blues singer in the Boston area. Restless, Taj headed west where he, and four other young musicians, organized The Rising Sons, a blues group which signed with Columbia and had a successful career before disbanding.

Taj is an admirer of Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, Wilson Pickett and especially Otis Redding. His Columbia LP, "Taj Mahal," was recently released and is currently generating a great deal of excitement among audiences throughout the country. Taj lives in Santa Monica and admits liking "people, animals, knife guitar, Japanese food, rain, the ocean and rolling fields." His personal ambition: "to buy a farm, settle down and watch things grow."

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